

The ball is a decided success. The room is very tastefully decorated with shields and flags, and is brightly lighted with gas. Dancing commenced precisely at ten o'clock, at which time the President and Mrs. Lincoln came. The guests are Messrs. Campbell, of Galena, Illinois, accompanied by Colonel Lamon, Colonel Ellsworth, Lot Todd, and Private Secretary Hayes. The room is pleasantly filled with a variety of tables for elegance and comfort, but few exceptions. The dancing is of good taste. Captain Comstock, Captain Woodhull of the United States Navy; Watson, Webb, and others are present. Hummel, of Chicago, daughter, General Scroggs and wife; and Mrs. Chanceller Walworth are among the prominent New Yorkers present. Mrs. Drake Miller is going to the ball. The President has a diamond ring worth \$20,000 dollars worth of diamonds. The army is well represented. Lord Lyons and other diplomats in plain dress are present. Senator Harris and Lady Marshall, of Iowa, are present. The President's daughter, Miss Lincoln, is also here. Mrs. Casson of Iowa, presented Mr. Seward with an elegant but chaste bouquet, which was the envy of the Senators' *concubines*. Mr. Seward entered the ball with the President's daughter, and the President, with a large shepherd's crook, is on the floor endeavoring to find Mr. Seward. At a quarter to 11 o'clock the Presidential party came in. Senators Baker, Hamlin, and Governor Yates, Miss Baker, and Dr. Balochio, Miss Edwards. The band struck up and the dancing and party commenced on one end of the hall to the other. The guests, strains of the national air, and causing an era of tremendous good feeling. After a brief promenade the President, with Mrs. Lincoln, took stations at a table, and the guests, in the meantime, the persons availed themselves of the opportunity of being presented to Mr. Lincoln, who shook hands with everybody. At half-past 11 o'clock the President's daughter came in and the dancing commenced in order as they entered the hall. At a quarter past 11 o'clock the quadrille of the evening was danced—Douglas and Mrs. Lincoln, Hamlin and Miss Edwards, and Dr. Balochio and Mrs. Lincoln. The President and Mrs. Baker composing the set. Miss Edwards, niece of Mrs. Lincoln, is acknowledged to be the belle of the evening. The ladies of the Presidential party are dressed exquisitely, and imperishable taste.

WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT.—When, in the chapter on this subject in my "Tales and Popular Fictions," I gave half-a-dozen parallels to this story, I thought I had done sufficient to prove its legendary character. I have since seen that I had not done so. I have now the Rev. Mr. Lysons, in his work on the subject, the celebrated Whittington, has endeavoured to prove the actual truth of what I asserted to be a mere fiction. He has done this by a very elaborate and tedious exhibition of chronology, to give that theory its *coups-de-grace* by showing its absolute impossibility. From the year 1240, he says, it appears that Richard the Lionhearted Whittington must have been born before 1240, and that the year in which his father died, and in which he was Lord Mayor, for the first time, in 1397. Consequently, he says, he must have been at least 157 years old when he was only a lad, if it must have been in the year 1375, or thereabouts. Now the story tells that it was on the west coast of Africa that the cat produced its riches, and that the cat was the first to lead him to the city of Whittington, that coast was nearly as unknown to Europe as America, for the Portuguese did not begin their discoveries along it till the 16th century—not till the 15th century, and the first voyage of discovery of that time the most distant voyages of English ships could only have been to the Baltic or the Mediterranean (only the Mediterranean, as the English were not then so plentiful as in England). It is therefore, he says, the whole story of the cat is a mere fiction, and I suspect that its appropriation to Whittington is not older than the story of the cat that was the first to lead him to the city of Whittington. I have not space to say how legends be founded in fact, but it is the "legend" of the cat.

Notes and Queries.
CHARGING CROSS RAILWAY AND DISPLACEMENT OF THE POOR.—The select committee of the Lords of this company's City Terminus Bill report as the result of their inquiry, that the number of houses occupied by the labouring classes, and over which compulsory power is sought by the bill, is eighty-two; but it having been proved that only seven houses would be removed, in two of which several rooms were unoccupied, and that the number of persons to be displaced amounted to only forty, the committee did not deem it necessary to make any special pro-

CURING BACON AND HAMS.—I can, from some experience, recommend the receipt below. The bacon never goes rancid, is fit for use much sooner than other bacon, and is particularly rich and mellow; but after all, much depends on the baking or boiling—steaming is far preferable to boiling:—8 lb. of salt, 1 oz. seed prunella, 6 oz. of bay salt, 6 lb. moist sugar, 26 quarts of water. All the ingredients to be boiled together, and poured hot over the bacon. The bacon must be turned every other day, and liquid ladled over

EMANCIPATION OF THE RUSSIAN SERFS.—On Monday night the exterior of Orzel House, Westbourne terrace, the residence of the well-known Russian patriot Alexander Heznan, was illuminated in honour of the great event which so powerfully affects the condition of his countrymen.

RICCIOTTI: GARIBOLDI'S SON.—Ricciotti Garibaldi, a son of the great Italian liberator, was on Monday March 18, presented with a set of accoutrements by

The 13th division of the Lancashire Volunteer Corps. The occasion of the presentation excited much interest, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen assembled to witness its acceptance. Sergeant Law acting as the representative of the corps, expressed on their behalf the high esteem in which General Garibaldi was held by them, and hoped that Signor Riccio Garibaldi would accept the gift as it was offered — a simple token of esteem and good-will. Signor Garibaldi responded to the sentiments of kindness expressed, after which the corps engaged in some military exercises.

The Court of the Worshipful Company of Gunners has resolved to present the freedom of the company to Sir William Armstrong, as a token of their appreciation of the great services he has rendered to the nation by his improvement in the science of gunnery. The certificate of the freedom will be ornamentally emblazoned and enclosed in a handsome box of the value of fifty guineas, with the arms of the company tastefully displayed thereon.

ARISTOCRATICAL SPELLING.—I don't know whether the

the same name, was the person of whom my mother used to relate a ludicrous anecdote. Some lady with whom she had been well acquainted, and to whom his lordship was observed to pay uncommon attentions, requested him to procure for her a pair of small monkeys from East India. I forget the kind. Lord Harry was happy to oblige her, wrote immediately, depending on the best services of a distant friend, whom he had seen recently served. Writing a bad hand, however, and spelling what he wrote for with more haste than correctness, he changed the gentleman's name, and

monkeys, but the word being written too, and all the characters one height, 100—what was poor Lorden's dismay, when a letter came to hand him with the news that he would receive 60 monkeys by such a ship, and 60 more by the next conveyance—making up the hundred, according to his lordship's commands!—*Mrs. Pizzini's Autobiography.*

[**STARS OF DESTINY.**—No one believes in Astrology now, because the order of celestial phenomena has been ascertained with remarkable precision. Yet how natural is the belief in stars' influence!]

serenity of Asiatic skies, the majestic aspects of the stars would naturally attract incessant notice. It is a tendency, observable in children and savages, to suppose that whatever interests them must also be interesting to them. If we look up at the stars, do they not look down upon us? If we follow their course with interest, will they not likewise withhold interest follow ours? Hence the belief in astral influences. The child upon whose cradle Mars has smiled will be credited with a martial career; the child born under Venus will be under her protection.

These are the spontaneous beliefs. Before they can be discredited men must, by a long process, have learned to check this tendency to suppose a direct relation between events which are simply coincident and must have learned that the source of the stars and the course of human conduct are in no direct relation to each other. But this is a slow process; and until Science has been thus far established, Astrology, and all other superstitions, are unassailable.—*Dickens' All the Year Round.*

DINNER TO SIR DAVID BAIRD, BART., OF NEW-

1774.—A few days since the members of the Eastern Lothian Hunt entertained Sir David Baird to dinner at Haddington, as an expression of their sense of the able manner in which he discharges the duties of master of the hounds. About fifty gentlemen sat down to dinner. The Earl of Haddington occupied the chair, supported by Sir Hew Dalrymple, the Hon. Mr. Ogilvie, Mr. Sinclair, jr., of Stevenson; and others. The croupiers were Mr. Mitchell Innes, of Phantassie, and Mr. M. H. Davidson.

The Mary Ann reports the Hugh Roberts, leaving Warrnambool

That they were out for an hour and a half. At the end of the period it was announced that ten of them had prepared to go to the court, and the other two were dismissed. Counsel on either side consented to accept the verdict, instead of keeping out the jury the six hours it took to quibble the law. It proved to be a verdict for the plaintiffs, with £1500 damages.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COURT.
 CHROESKY.
 BEFORE THE JUDGE, A. CHROESKY, Esq., and a JURY.
 BROODING IN THE NIGHT.
 The plaintiffs, who are timber merchants, sought to recover from Mr. John Dickson, of Cogges, £46 10s. 4d. for the value of timber supplied. The plaintiffs produced in evidence the invoice schedule of defendant, dated in December, 1859, and an order relating to the

from sequestration, in the former the plaintiffs were entered as creditors for £21 17s. 4d.; they also produced receipts signed by defendant's daughter for goods subsequently delivered, and called their driverman who delivered some of the goods. Defendant pleaded payment and set-off, and as to the value of the goods, that credit was given to his daughter. Defendant swore that as to this portion of the goods he never ordered them, and that having to attend to his business in the Upper House, his time was so occupied that his private affairs were neglected and that his daughter had been in the habit of

more money than he owed them. That he had paid to some one in plaintiff's premises on one occasion £37 17s. 11d. and on another occasion £29 8s. 9d.; that his daughter accompanied him to the yard, and that the payments were credited at the time at the foot of the bills he took with him, but no name was put to the credit; and that he believed one payment was made to plaintiff's clerk; but he could not state to whom he made the other. The evidence of defendant's daughter was that she accompanied her father on both occasions, and saw him with money; one sum he obtained from the

plaintiff's offer told Mrs. Dickson; that her father went into the plaintiff's office and came out with the bills credited; that she saw some one in the office with her father on one occasion; that she did not go inside on either occasion; that a portion of the timber was supplied on her credit for the purpose of building a dairy for herself. Mrs. Dickson proved giving money to her husband, together with the bill, which, when the latter was returned to her, was credited at the foot, but was not so when it gave it. The carpenter who built the dairy was also called to prove that he was employed and paid by Miss Dickson. To meet this evidence the examination de bene esse of the plaintiff Brownfield was

absent from the colony was read, and the other plaintiff with Mr. Miller, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Moon, were called. The evidence of each of them was most positive that they had not received either of the sums said to have been paid. That they had no knowledge of the handwriting of the words—By cash, £37 17s. 11d.; by cash, £22 8s. 3d. That there was no other person authorized to receive money. That the cash was balanced every evening, and that all moneys passed through Miller's hands. The Judge left it to the jury first as to the admission in the schedule—and to whom was credit given for the subsequent goods—and had the payments taken made as he claimed.

for the plaintiff, £18 12s. Mr. S. C. Brown for plaintiff; Mr. Rowley for defendant.

PEARLY (ASSIGNED) v. CASPAH.

This was an action by the official assignee of Abraham Lyons, Esq., to recover £40 received by defendant from the insolvent a few days before the order for sequestration in September last, but on what day did not appear in evidence. On 9th Tyrrell obtained a judgment against insolvent. On the 12th September the latter drew from the bank £15 11s. 10d., and on or about the same day paid defendant on account of £40 which he owed him one half the amount. It was

stated by plaintiff's counsel, they were compelled to make defendant their witness as they had been unable to find the insolvent. The sequestration was proved to have been on the 25th September. It was contended for the defendant that there was no case to answer—that it did not appear whether the judgment was obtained by Tyrrell before or after the judgment to defendant,—that there was nothing to show the nature or extent of Lyon's business transactions, nor did it in any way appear what was the cause of his insolvency, or what creditors he had. The Judge referred the jury to the 12th clause of the Insolvent Act, and asked them to determine whether

the payment was made by Lyons knowing that he was insolvent, or in contemplation of surrendering his estate. Verdict for defendant. Mr. Sheppard, instructed by Mr. Dillon, for plaintiff; Mr. Isaacs, instructed by Mr. Levy, for defendant.

INSOLVENT COURT.
THURSDAY.

BIRRO: the Chief Commissioner.

In the estate of Richard Dransfield, a first meeting. Two debts were proved.

In the estate of Archibald Lamont, a first meeting. No one appeared.

In the estate of Percival F. S. Stephen, a postponed third meeting. Two debts were proved, the official assignee read his report, and the meeting adjourned for directions until to-morrow.

In the estate of Henry H. J. Madden, a single meeting. Nothing done.

In the estate of William Walker, a special meeting. One witness was examined, and the meeting adjourned until to-morrow.

In the estate of James G. Pillar, a special meeting. Two

In the estate of John A. Parfitt, a special meeting. One debt was proved. Insolvent applied for an allowance from the assets of the estate; the creditor present authorized the official to pay him a sum equal to fifteen per cent. on the assets realized.

In the estate of Joel H. Asher, a special meeting. Two debts were proved.

In the estate of Solomon Moses, deceased, an adjourned examination. No person being in attendance to conduct the examination, the meeting was terminated.

In the estate of James B. Chiswell, a special meeting. One debt was proved.

In the estate of Garland and Bingham, an adjourned meeting for decision upon the allowance of Mr. Samuel B. Walker's claim of \$576 18s. His Honor, having fully considered the facts before him, allowed the debt to rank against the estate for the full amount claimed.

RETURNED.

John Matthew Wright, of Queen's-place, Sydney, warehousekeeper. Liabilities, £337 18s. 11d. Assets—value of personal property, £137 10s.; outstanding debts, £35 11s. 3d.; total, £173 8s. Deficit, £758 10s. 8d.

Mr. Mackenzie, official assignee.

MEETING OF CREDITORS—FRIDAY.

Mitchell and Co., adjourned examination, 11.

William Walker, adjourned special for examination, 11.

Edward F. S. Stephens, adjourned special, third, 12.

William Carter, adjourned single, 2.

Michael McMahon, adjourned examination, 3.

Monday, May 20.—Henry B. Wilson, second, half-past 10. John Kearney, special for proof of debts, 11. John Nobbs, second, half-past 11. John Musgrave, first, 12. Thomas Byrne, special, quarter-past 12. Richard Dransfield, second, half-past 12. Archibald Langman, second, 2. Henry G. Hevelley, adjourned special for proof of debts, half-past 2. Philip Alexander Macdonald, adjourned special for proof of debts, half-past 2.

Tuesday, 21.—Henry W. Johnson, adjourned examination, half-past 10. Anthony Vider, adjourned second, 11. Henry Markham, adjourned single, 11.

Wednesday, 22.—Daniel O'Reilly, third, half-past 10. John Wells, third, 11. William Lakenan, third, half-past 11. James C. Smith, adjourned, 11. John and Waters, third, half-past 11.

Thursday, 23.—J. W. Hunter, third, 2. Edward Myers, special for examination, 2. Cowan and Israel, first, half-past 2.—At *Maitland*: Thomas Plunkett, single, 11.

Thursday, 23.—George Nurgesson, third, half-past 10. Joseph Ireal, third, 11. Samuel W. Cutler, third, half-past 11. Michael McCormack, for examination, 12. Kierahan and Co., adjourned, 12. John and Waters, adjourned second, 12.

Friday, 24.—At *St. John's*: J. Butler, first, 2. Russell, N. S. P. L. first, half-past 3. At *St. John's*: J. Butler, first, 2. Russell, N. S. P. L. first, half-past 3. At

CENTRAL POLICE COURT.
THURSDAY.
BEFORE the Police Magistrate, with Messrs. Lenohan, G. Hill, Spence, and Ross.
Seven drunkards were fined 10s. each, and one 20s. with the usual alternative; and another, whose frequent offences brought her within the operation of the Vagrant Act, was sentenced to be imprisoned three calendar months.

Two women convicted of having in public places made use of obscene language, were ordered to pay 20s each, or to be imprisoned seven days.

Mary Ann Macdonald was brought before the Bench charged with having stolen three fourpenny bits, the property of Joseph Noble, of the Golden Gate public-house, George-street, her employer. Macdonald was on Monday charged before the Police Magistrate and Mr. Cohen with having stolen 7s., the property of Noble, of which offence, having submitted herself to the summary jurisdiction of the Court, she was pronounced not guilty before Mr. Roberts, but then counsel had completed his cross-examination of

the prosecutor. On the same day, Noble made a fresh information, in which he charged Macdonald with stealing three fourpenny bits (being also a part of the money which she was acquitted of stealing). Macdonald was apprehended, and was yesterday remanded until to-day. Inspector Forman produced three fourpenny bits which he received from Mr. Roberts. Mr. Roberts deposed that on Monday he defended the prisoner against Noble's charge of stealing marked money; and on her acquittal received, as her attorney, from the Chief Inspector of Police, the money she had been charged with stealing. The three bits required

settling, among which were two—first, that she should afterwards, with her consent, alleging it to be her own, he delivered to inspector Ferns; prosecutor had then been several times to him to effect a compromise, in an action for malicious prosecution, and afterwards to offer a fee of £50, to conduct a fresh prosecution, which of course he refused to accept; prosecutor did not object to pay McDonald's wages, costs incurred in her defence, and something by way of compensation for the imprisonment she had endured, but denounced to her brother-in-law's demand for a public apology; in the course of conversation remarked to Noble that he had made a great mistake in

swearing to a coin by a mark which was not in existence to which he replied that he had made a — foot of himself. Joseph Noble was next examined, but his deposition was so full of statements in diametrical opposition one to another that no dependence could be placed upon it except to the fact that Macdonald was in his service. Thomas McLachlan, barman to Noble, deposed that early on Saturday morning, in consequence of having mislaid money from the till he marked silver money amounting to 13s. 6d.; about eight o'clock prisoner called him to breakfast, and remained in the bar; on his return he mislaid one 6d. and five 4d. pieces; when Noble came

down stairs he told him of the circumstance, and went

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Table 1

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THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE FRONT
The following are the latest news from the front, as received from the various sources of information.
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